



ENCOUNTER
SUNDAY NIGHTS 6PM

Christianity &

HUMAN

WHOLENESS



Exploring the questions of Life

WEEK 2: DOES GOD HEAL TODAY?

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2Ch 7:14 *“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”*

Often our Methodist understanding of healing is that this is something done by other churches. Methodists sing hymns, preach sermons, and drink tea, while the charismatic churches do the healing. This is not true: healing is one of the central attributes of God, and a core activity of God's people. Not only is God a healing God, but God's people are called to bring healing into our world.

2 Chronicles 7 was written 500 years before Jesus - at a time when the temple of Solomon lay in ruins. The temple had been destroyed by the Persians and the people were scattered, their faith in danger of disintegration. The writer described the building of the temple and the promise made by God when the temple was built. So here we have a time of national disaster (a time when the nation was ill) and the promise of God to bring healing.

I. Humble themselves and pray: "Humble" comes from the word "humiliate": to lose your dignity or to lose face. At this point I want to introduce us to the Hebrew word for healing: it is "Shalom". Shalom means to be whole - in body, mind, soul, memories and in relationships.

So when we humble ourselves before God we are acknowledging that our 'shalom' is shattered. Our dignity is in tatters, our pride is broken, and we are in need of God's wholeness (*Shalom*).

2. Seek My Face: Another way of putting this is "to seek My will". If we want God's healing then we need to acknowledge that healing is the work of God. This implies that all healing is according to God's agenda. We ask for the healing, but need to be content with the answer given by God. God will always restore our '*shalom*' - but not always as we demand. All too often our demand is for physical healing, but remember "*shalom*" is body and mind and soul and relationships.

- Healing is God's work. There are no magic hands. The healing is not the possession of an individual to give others: anyone can pray for healing - because the person who prays is only the delivery person - the healer is God.
- Before praying for healing "Seek God's face". This means to ask God what area of your life he wants to restore.

3. Turn from your wicked ways. All healing begins with the healing of the soul. There is no space for any other healing if we do not begin with the healing of forgiveness.

In Luke 5 Jesus heals a man who is lowered through the roof. Jesus first words of healing are: "Your sins are forgiven"! All healing begins with forgiveness of sin. Which takes us back to the beginning point of our text. The beginning place for healing is the recognition that we are broken / we are undignified / we are humiliated. Only when we admit that we are shattered do we have space to recognise that God restores us to wholeness.

One last point: Let us recognise that the ultimate healing - is death. Somehow in our western society we have made death the enemy. There are moments when a person's body has worn out. Sometimes this is through old age, while other times the human body is damaged beyond repair. We need to learn to pray the prayer that releases that person from their broken body - and allows them to receive the new body of eternal life.

CHRISTIANITY AND HUMAN WHOLENESS

19 June **“Can I be perfect?”**
(Pete Grassow)

26 June **“Does God heal today?”**
(Pete Grassow)

3 July **“How do I Forgive?”**
(Similo Sanqela)

10 July **“How is my body ‘a temple of the Lord?’”**
(Sam Bennett)

17 July **“What about Suicide & Depression?”**
(Similo Sanqela)

24 July **“What are your addictions?”**
(Pete Grassow)

31 July **“How can I be free?”**
(Similo Sanqela)

7 Aug **“Do you need Healing?”**
(Pete Grassow)

BMC YOUNG ADULTS

ENCOUNTER (Sunday Nights)

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